

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, and 17. Claims 8-16, 18, 20, and 22-40 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 17, 19, and 21 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-7, 17-19, 21, 23, 25, 27-33, 37-38 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Obara (US 5,204,857). The Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 17 to better distinguish the claimed invention from Obara.

As discussed in the telephone interview, Obara discloses a fully integrated STM/ATM network arrangement with a call control unit external to both the STM switch and the ATM switch for controlling the entire arrangement. The Applicants' invention is an intermediate arrangement enabling an operator with a narrowband network to utilize the call control functionality in the legacy narrowband switches to control broadband connection control functionality to route traffic calls to broadband destination nodes.

The Examiner stated in the telephone interview that amended claim 17 was allowable over Obara. Therefore, the allowance of claim 17 and dependent claims 19 and 21 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also stated that if the same amendments were made to claim 1, it would also be allowable. The Applicants have made the same amendments to claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 24 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obara in view of Holler (WO 9828884). The Applicants have canceled claims 24 and 39. Claim 3 depends from amended claim 1 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel

and unobvious limitations of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

4.) Prior Art Not Relied Upon

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure. However, Applicants reading of these references has revealed no teaching or suggestion of an arrangement or method as claimed by the Applicants.

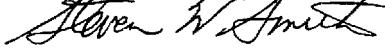
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-7, 17, 19, and 21.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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